

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 NEA-14 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 IO-14 L-03 DRC-01

/122 W

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P 031811Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2873

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23398

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: FRANCO/US CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING ASIA

REF: STATE 207911

SUMMARY: QUAI DIRECTOR FOR ASIA, FROMENT-MEURICE, IS SATISFIED WITH BASIC AGENDA OF TALKS AS PROPOSED BY EA AND NEA. HE MADE A FEW REMARKS ON SUBJECTS WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST, SPECIFICALLY THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S DESIRE THAT THERE BE POSITIVE CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING THE CAMBODIAN SITUATION. BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT UNGA AND UPCOMING FRENCH AND US CONTACTS WITH JAPAN AND PRC, FRANCO/US CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING ASIA ARE PARTICULARLY OPPORTUNE AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY

1. IN FINAL CONTACT PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE US FOR CONSULTATIONS ON EAST AND SOUTH ASIA, FROMENT-MEURICE SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH GENERAL PROGRAM AS OUTLINED TO HIM BY HIS DEPUTY DUZER WHOM EMBOFF HAD BRIEFED BASED ON REFTEL. FROMENT-MEURICE EXPECTED THAT AS USUAL THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS WOULD BE CHINA, JAPAN, AND INDOCHINA.

2. CHINA. FROMENT-MEURICE NOTED THAT THE SITUATION
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WAS NOW QUIET ON THE CHINA FRONT, BUT ORE COULD NOT BE

SURE HOW LONG THAT MIGHT LAST. FRANCE WAS TRYING TO CEMENT ITS GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRC AS WAS SHOWN BY THE RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR AND THE NEWS OF A HIGH-LEVEL PRC VISIT TO FRANCE. HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT DATES OF SECRETARY'S TRIP TO PEKING WOULD SOON BE ANNOUNCED. US AND FRANCE WERE IN AGREEMENT ON THE DESIRABILITY OF ACTIONS WHICH COULD CONFIRM AND ADVANCE THE CURRENT PRC POLICY OF OPENING TOWARD THE WEST. HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE A SERIOUS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AS A BASIS FOR FUTURE ACTIONS. (PRATT LETTER TO PRCM OF SEPTEMBER 24 CONTAINED FURTHER INDICATIONS OF SUBJECTS WHICH WILL INTEREST FRENCH.)

3. JAPAN. IT WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON JAPAN. HE WISHED TO GET OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF THE JAPANESE ECONOMY, ITS ABILITY TO MAINTAIN ITS GROWTH IN THE FACE OF WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THE ENERGY SHORTAGE. HE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING JAPANESE REARMAMENT. JAPANESE FOREIGN RELATIONS WOULD BE RATHER EASILY AND QUICKLY HANDLED; "THE BASIC PROBLEM WAS JAPAN'S ABILITY TO REMAIN JAPAN." HE NOTED THAT THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE U.S. PRESIDENT WOULD BE VISITING JAPAN SHORTLY.

4. SOUTH KOREA. FROMENT-MEURICE THOUGHT THE CONVERSATION WOULD BE SHORT, BUT IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME COMPROMISE IN THE UN.

5. INDOCHINA. ALTHOUGH THERE WOULD BE A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF VIETNAM (PRATT SEPTEMBER 23 LETTER TO EA/VN) AND LAOS' HE THOUGHT THAT MOST OF THE TIME WOULD BE SPENT ON CAMBODIA. MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES HAD PARTICULARLY ASKED HIM NOT ONLY TO HAVE A THOROUGH COMPARISON OF OUR RESPECTIVE ANALYSES, BUT ALSO TO ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT SOME HARMONY OF VIEWS ON HOW ONE CAN PROCEED TO INTERNATIONAL COMPROMISE AND INTERNAL SETTLEMENT (REGLEMENT). THE PROBLEM WAS MORE FUNDAMENTAL THAN JUST THE SHORT TERM UNGA CREDENTIALS STRUGGLE. GOF WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT ENTIRELY PESSIMISTIC EVEN ON THE UNGA PROBLEM. THE USSR HAD TAKEN A VERY MODERATE POSITION ON CAMBODIA IN ITS UNGA SPEECH. IN A CONVERSATION LAST WEEK, FIRYUBIN TOOK A VERY MODERATE LINE ON CAMBODIA AND SAID THAT ONE SHOULD NOT EXCLUDE COMPROMISE AND NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH ONE SHOULD CLEARLY EXCLUDE LON NOL. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID THAT THE PROBLEM WAS NOT SIHANOUK AND HIS "BOURGEOIS" RETENUE, BUT THE REAL GRUNK LEADERS. WITH

WHOM SO FEW HAD CONTACT AND ABOUT WHOM WE KNEW SO LITTLE.
THE CAMBODIAN CONVERSATION WOULD THEREFORE BE OF SPECIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 23398

OPERATIONAL IMPORTANCE. (SEE ALSO PRATT SEPTEMBER
18 LETTER TO EA/LC).

6. ASEAN AND INDONESIA. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID HE WILL
BE INTERESTED IN OUR VIEWS AND WILL HAVE SOME OF HIS
OWN, BUT HE DID NOT CONSIDER THIS A FUNDAMENTAL
PROBLEM AT THIS TIME.

7. FROMENT-MEURICE INDICATED NO PARTICULAR TOPICS FOR
DISCUSSION ON SOUTH ASIA. IT WOULD BE A TOUR D'HORIZON
OF AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, INDIA, BANGLADESH, SRI LANKA.

8. FROMENT-MEURICE NOTED THE SCHEDULED HOURS FOR
CONSULTATIONS AND SAID THAT HE WISHED US TO KNOW THAT
HE WOULD BE QUITE PREPARED FOR OTHER CONVERSATIONS
OUTSIDE THESE HOURS WITH PARTICULAR PERSONS ON PARTICULAR
PROBLEMS AS THE DEPARTMENT WISHED. HE WANTED TO
MAKE FULL USE OF HIS TIME IN THE U.S. HE SAID THAT,
FOR EXAMPLE, HE WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON WEDNESDAY MORNING
SHOULD WE WISH FURTHER EXCHANGES. HE ASKED, FOR

EXAMPLE, FOR NAMES OF NSC STAFF PERSONS WORKING ON ASIA. HE DEPARTS WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TO RETURN DIRECTLY TO PARIS.

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9. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY PATRICK VILLEMUR, A YOUNG DIPLOMAT IN THE ASIAN DIRECTORATE WHO HANDLES VIETNAM. VILLEMUR GRADUATED LAST YEAR FROM THE PRESTIGIOUS ECOLE NATIONALE D'ADMINISTRATION AND IS SERVING HIS FIRST TOUR IN THE QUAI. FROMENT-MEURICE CONSIDERS HIM A VERY BRIGHT, QUICK OFFICER WHO HAS A GIFT FOR WRITING. (HE WILL APPARENTLY BE CHARGED WITH TAKING THE NOTES.) FROMENT-MEURICE SAID THAT HE HAD CHOSEN VILLEMUR RATHER THAN ONE OF HIS SPECIALISTS BECAUSE HE WISHED TO GIVE HIM SOME EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIONS. VILLEMUR IS ALSO A CLOSE FRIEND OF FROMENT-MEURICE'S SON. VILLEMUR SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH.

10. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT IS AN OPPORTUNE TIME FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOF ON ASIA. ALTHOUGH OUR RELATIONS WITH FROMENT-MEURICE IN THE PAST HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN SMOOTH AND THE RUMORS ARE INSISTENT THAT HE WILL NOT LONG REMAIN ASIAN DIRECTOR, WE BELIEVE THIS IS AN IMPORTANT OCCASION TO CONVEY U.S. VIEWS, TO CONSULT WITH FRANCE AS CURRENT PRESIDENT OF EC-NINE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO HAS HAD LITTLE ASIAN EXPERIENCE, HAS APPARENTLY ATTACHED CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE VISIT AND WILL PROBABLY READ THE REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIONS. HIGH LEVEL U.S. AND FRENCH VISITS TO JAPAN AND MORE DIRECT U.S. AND FRENCH CONTACTS WITH THE PRC LATE THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT YEAR WILL NO DOUBT MAKE U.S. VIEWS ON THESE TWO COUNTRIES OF GREAT INTEREST TO SAUVAGNARGUES HIMSELF. IN ADDITION, THE FRANCO/US RELATIONS OVER THE KHMER AND KOREAN PROBLEMS IN THE UN HAVE ALSO BEEN GIVEN PERSONAL ATTENTION BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

11. TO ASSIST IN FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS WITH THE FRENCH HERE, FAIRLY FULL REPORTS OF THE SESSIONS WOULD BE USEFUL TO EMBASSY PARIS AND PERHAPS ALSO TO CERTAIN EA POSTS.
IRWIN

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